THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CENTER FOR AFRICA

Official Launch

The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa

SUB-REGIONAL CENTER for SOUTHERN AFRICA

7th August 2019 | Lusaka, Zambia

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CENTRE FOR AFRICA
SUB-REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA
GOALS
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CENTER FOR AFRICA
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

H.E. Paul KAGAME, President of the Republic of Rwanda and Chair of The SDGC/A Board and H.E. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia handing over the symbolic key to Dr. Belay Begashaw, Director General of The SDGC/A at the Official Launch of the Sub-Regional Center for Southern Africa in Lusaka, Zambia.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Zambia launched the very first SDGC/A Sub-Regional Center that will focus on the Southern Africa Region. The event took place on the 7th of August 2019 at the Mulungushi International Conference Center in Lusaka, Zambia and brought together more than 600 participants from the Southern Africa Region.

The function was conducted in a panel discussions structure with the official opening ceremony by Heads of States, in between. The discussions were oriented around the SDGs implementation in the Southern Region of Africa and how the countries have performed according to the Africa SDG Index and Dashboard 2019 Report released in June 2019 in Kigali, Rwanda. They also discussed on the way forward and partnerships for the implementation of The SDGC/A flagship projects.

II. BACKGROUND

2.1. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all United Nations Member States. The agenda is anchored on five pillars of People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnership – aimed at guaranteeing growth, social inclusion while protecting the environment. The SDGs comprise an ambitious and interrelated set of 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030.

Following the adoption of SDGs in September 2015, Africa has made commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals Universal Agenda (SDG 2030) and the African Union Agenda 2063.

2.2. AFRICA'S STARTING DISADVANTAGE

At the adoption of the SDGs, Africa's starting point was lower than all the other regions. As an example, slightly over 50% of the countries were classified as low-income countries, with Africa's share of global GDP less than 3%. Additionally, 37 African countries were classified as low in human development indicators with a Human Development Index (HDI) of less than 0.55.

Fragility also remained highly prevalent in Africa, with 31 African countries classified as "fragile."Africa was at cross roads with low tax revenue to GDP on one end of the problem and enormous development needs on the other end. Infrastructure gaps alone were estimated at USD 130–170 billion a year, with a financing gap in the range of USD 68–USD108 billion[1].

The SDGs were conceptualized and adopted during a period of global economic and financial transition. Africa endured the slowest economic growth in 2016 in over two decades, coupled with different spates of inflation, currency pressures and drought further compromises its development outcomes.

2.3. THE SDG CENTER FOR AFRICA

The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A) is an international not-for-profit institution that was launched in September 2015 by African leaders, in order to provide technical support, neutral advice and expertise as input to national governments, private sector, civil society, academic institutions to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs agenda across Africa.

In July 2016, The SDGC/A signed a Host Country Agreement with the Government of Rwanda as an international, non-profit continental institution, and officially launched its headquarters a few months after, in January 2017. The SDGC/A's main engagement and intervention areas are :

- SDGs planning, costing, tracking & reporting,
- SDGs financing and governance,
- Setting agenda for policy dialogue,
- Center engagement on global forums
- Espousing synergies and partnerships of key stakeholders.

III. THE SDGC/A SUB-REGIONAL CENTER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

3.1. RATIONALE

The launch of SDGC/A Sub-Regional Center for Southern Africa followed the "Host Country Agreement" signed in September 2018 between the Government of Zambia and The SDGC/A as a continuation of the Center's commitment to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development throughout the five regions of Africa. The launched Sub-regional center will support mainly the Southern Africa Region countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with more focus on regional priorities and challenges, and will serve Africa as a whole.

3.2. THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH EVENT

The one-day event held at the Mulungushi International Conference Center in Lusaka, Zambia brought together over 600 government officials, international development partners, development finance institutions, Statistics Institutions and experts from the Southern Africa and abroad, joining high level dignitaries to discuss the major themes relevant to SDGs implementation in Africa with focus on the Southern Region. In line with focal areas of the Center related to Policy Advisory, Research and Education and Technology, the Center has already launched several projects and activities in accelerating SDGs achievement in Africa.

The snapshot presentation was made to show progress on SDGs across the region. Additionally, the Center desires to launch some of these flagship projects and activities at the Sub-regional level in order to support national governments in SDGs attainment. These projects include SDG and AU 2063 monitoring and reporting system, macro-economic reform, revitalization of national development Banks, water and sanitation and optimal energy mix-pathways for sustainable development.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAUNCH OF THE SUB-REGIONAL CENTER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Welcome remarks by HON. ALEXANDER CHITEME- Minister of National Development and Planning, Republic of Zambia

4.1. WELCOME REMARKS

Hon. Alexander Chiteme welcomed Participants from across the Southern Region of Africa stating that the event displays the Zambia's commitment and determination to act together with other countries of the region in pursuit of a shared African development vision of ensuring that the SDGs agenda is actualized.

Hon. Chiteme said that the launch of the center is timely as it will accord technical support, advice and expertise to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

He emphasized that the center will be a step towards increased collaboration amongst countries in the region and will ensure that respective development plans and policies are aligned to the SDGs.

"It will also provide a platform for Ministries responsible for National planning in the region to cross pollinate ideas. It is anticipated that the creation of a formal framework of collaboration within the region which will lead to mutual reinforcement and sharing of best practices." Hon. Chiteme noted.

He concluded his address stating that the Center will enable the scale up of support towards governments, civil society organizations, businesses and academic institutions in achieving the SDGs in Africa.

4.2. PRESENTATION ON THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION PERFORMANCE

Dr. Enock Twinoburyo, Senior Economist at The SDGC/A presented the overview of Southern Africa's performance based on the SDGs Three Year Report and the 2019 launched in June 2019 in Kigali.

Summary of some of the highlighted indicators/SDGS at a glance:

1. **Below poverty line:** The region still faces high poverty rates. Progress in reducing poverty has only been in relative terms, in actual absolute numbers, poverty has been on an increase. One average one in three Africans is at risk of poverty.
2. **Food insecurity:** Over 50% of African countries are low income countries and one in three African countries has a risk of food insecurity despite having plenty of arable land and rainfall. 95% of agriculture activities in Africa are rain-fed which makes production seasonal. In addition, productivity is in question and population growth is sacking agricultural production.
3. **Under 5 nutrition:** Overall under-five nutrition is still poor in comparison to the 2030 SDG target

4. **Net enrollment:** there has been some improvements in enrollment levels but completion rates of those enrolled remains very low

5. **Proportion of women seats in parliament:** Gender empowerment shows that Africa is still below SDG target only Rwanda has managed to attain the SDG target of over 50% women's participation in parliament. Most African countries are below 50/50 target.

6. **Access to basic water**: there has been a marked improvement in access to basic water, but the region still has some work to do to attain the 2030 target

7. **Access to electricity:** Access to electricity shows that only South Africa and Mauritius have made significant progress but south Africa still remains below the SDG world target

8. **Unemployment:** unemployment remains high in Africa reflecting the demographic challenge as well as the lack of structural change. Over 40 countries have unemployment rates of over 5% as only one in four are in employment,

9. **GDP Growth:** Growth has stagnated for most countries and more work is needed to meet the SDG target as none of the Southern African countries have attained the 7% SDG growth target.

10. **World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator:** Data shows that only 96 of 232 indicators currently have data available for conducting cross comparison in African countries representing 41.4% Data is still a challenge for evidence-based monitoring of SDGs implementation.

Key Bottlenecks:

These are mainly structural challenges that preceded the adoption of SDGs. They will require fast tracked reforms and undertaking.

- **Weak governance:** There is positive correlation between weak governance and SDG performance as measured by the SDG index. The same is shown when governance is correlatively mapped against other development outcomes and macro-economic targets like revenue collection.

- **Population pressure:** An average African – similar average in Southern Africa is 19 years old. This person is a dependent at best with unpropitious economic characteristics. The need for demographic transition is apparent for Africa as it is the only continent without demographic transition. The poor procreate more than the average low income earners and those in higher income brackets, which may expound the vulnerability of perpetual poverty. This also has implications for the struggle of social inclusion.
- **Large financing gap**: In most Africa countries, they need as much in additional financing as they currently collect. The IMF incremental spending 14% of GDP is needed to achieve the SDGs.
- **Poor infrastructure:** This is also reflected in the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index where Africa at large compares unfavorably to other peers even on the infrastructure score. Both quality and quantity as well as access remain a challenge.

Other constraints:

Inter alia include weak public investment management, falling total factor productivity, corruption and tight global conditions.

Takeaways:

Africa is off-track in achieving the SDGs. Social inclusion is in part outstripped by population growth. It also underscores that current effort are not enough to keep up with population as well as to meet the SDG targets. The current implementation and governance frameworks have been widely embraced at political level but not manifesting in budget and implementation lower levels. Data is still a challenge, 4 in 10 indicators have data. Weakness across the SDG ecosystem.

WAY FORWARD

- Countries need to develop strong governance for the implementation of SDGs
- There is urgent need for countries to compensate for lost time as current efforts are necessary but not sufficient.
- Data tracking mechanisms for SDGs must be put in place, sooner than later. The Center has developed tools that it can work with governments to aide collection of data in real time.
- Social inclusion in the era of fiscal constraints – needs ring fenced protection. The creation of Africa based and financed funds for health, education and green water that have previously got presidential (Rwanda. Liberia and Zambia) plus African Union Chairperson support, need to be accelerated.
- There is need to support local value chains to ensure that Africa moves away from exporting commodities and importing finished products that are based on commodities produced locally;
- A lot of work should be done and as Africa progresses to achieve the target no one should be left behind.

4.3. PANEL DISCUSSION ON KEY FINDINGS OF THE SDGS 3 YEAR REPORT AND THE AFRICA SDG INDEX AND DASHBOARD 2019 REPORT

The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa
Launch of the Sub-Regional Center for Southern Africa
7th August 2019 - Lusaka, Zambia
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CENTRE FOR AFRICA
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THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CENTRE FOR AFRICA

Panel Moderator : Dr. Denis Wood

Panelists:

1. Ms. Chileshe Kapwepwe, Secretary General, COMESA
2. Ms. Bineswaree Bolaky, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA, Sub-regional Office, Southern Africa
3. Mr. George Okech, FAO Representative, Zambia
4. Dr. Chrispin Mphuka, University of Zambia

Discussion Question1: How off track are we and what has to be done?

Dr. Chrispin Mphuka, University of Zambia:

- The presentation showed us that we are off track. It is an investment program and problem is perceived to arise from the reduction in fiscal space. Some countries are doing fine while most are struggling.
- We have to consider how much growth is needed to grow in a more robust manner. One aspect is that Africa is susceptible to external shocks and depends on primary commodities which are exposed to price volatility.
- Growth affected by commodity dependence.

WAY FORWARD:

- We need to take specific steps for structural transformation including industrialization, developing infrastructure, anchoring and related.
- African countries need to anchor on the global value chain

Ms. Bineswaree Bolaky, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA, Sub-regional Office, Southern Africa

- We need to be aware that SDGs consist of ambitious goals with an enormous financing challenge.
- There is lack of estimation cost of SDGs by sub-region. In the Southern Africa region, there should be an exercise that has to be made on costing of SDGs. Each country should come up with a costing of the implementation of SDGs which should inform the formulation of resource mobilization strategy.
- There is a lot going on at different fronts locally and globally and the question is how we get all these efforts to speak one another for better achievement of SDGs.
- There is a need to break down financing needs for SDG implementation into annual, short-term and long-term, and be clear on ensuring that finances are used productively through good Governance.

WAY FORWARD:

- Harmonization of what is going on in different fronts: Integrate SDGs, Africa Agenda 2063 and other international development frameworks into NDPs so that they are implemented simultaneously.
- Africa needs about US$600 – US$614 Billion annual incremental expenditure for the implementation of SDGs.

Ms. Chileshe Kapwepwe, Secretary General, COMESA

- In Africa, infrastructure deficit is the main challenge, if sorted there would be solutions to many. This includes access issues.
- There is a need for Africa to make smart and sequential investments so that the initial projects act as building blocks for the eventual ones.

- Data Gap: We don't have adequate data to assess SDGs. Africa needs to re-enforce its data capacity for measuring progress which would inform policy formulation and resource allocation based on factual evidence; Introducing bill for statistics like the case of Zambia is a good step forward.
- Africa needs to enhance its digitization of goods and services and invest in technologies that support growth of industries;
- Africa has a large youth population and there is need for the youth to actively participate in development processes for growth to be sustainable;
- Reinforce data strategies; this area is often overlooked but very critical for informing policy and supporting evidence-based interventions.

WAY FORWARD:

- Potential areas to advance sustainable development in the region include;
- 1-Advancing technology including digitalization of trade
- 2-Involve the youth and the private sector to promote innovation and make technological advances.
- African countries need to identify commonalities among them so as to pool resources for implementation of projects in areas such as energy and other infrastructure;
- Need for partnerships with the Private Sector for SDGs implementation

Mr. George OKECH, FAO Representative, Zambia

- Emphasis should be on creating conducive environment, create more awareness for the participation of everyone and create partnerships for implementation of SDGs;
- We need to raise awareness on SDGs among the populace to promote inclusiveness;
- Non state actors should strive to create partnerships with Governments.

Discussion Question 2: What can be done to stimulate growth in Africa? (Sustainable development food and development for all)

Ms. Bineswaree Bolaky, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA, Sub-regional Office, Southern Africa

- Focus industrialization and structural transformation rather than relying mainly on primary commodities. Africa cannot grow depending on primary commodities.
- Need for developing productive capacities and structural transformation;
- Need to expand value chains so as to create growth within Africa
- Reduce dependency
- Engage in value addition, tackle gaps in value chains
- In Southern Africa region, we have the industrialization policy but the challenge is implementation. Countries need to focus on taking practical action.

WAY FORWARD

- Need to develop Industrial policies as a basis for industrialization.

Dr. Chrispin Mphuka, University of Zambia:

- Focus in the medium to long-term should be on structural transformation. It is worrying that Africa's services sector contributes over 40% to GDP but industrialization is weak and agriculture has a small contribution. There is need to develop the industrial capacity of Africa to achieve robust economic growth;
- To cushion Africa from commodity price shocks, there is need to move away from exports of primary commodities, hence need for structural transformation.
- Agro-processing is critical to move forward.

4.4. OFFICIAL SPEECHES

Dr. Belay E. Begashaw, Director General, SDGC/A delivering his introductory remarks and rationale of The SDGC/A Sub-Regional Center for Southern Africa

Dr. Begashaw Started his speech with appreciation and vote of thanks to the Board of Directors SDGC/A for making the decision to locate one of its Sub-Regional office in Lusaka, Zambia and all the unreserved support extended by the Government of Zambia. He mentioned that The SDGC/A has been gaining reputation as a modest center of excellence for Africa and playing an active role in local and international dialogues related to SDGs.

He informed that The Center has flagship projects in areas of SDG monitoring and reporting (e.g SDG index and dashboard report), SDG financing, organizing research and conducting international conferences in health, education, water and energy; accountability mechanism, setting up African based funds for sustainable development. The six major programs of The SDGC/A include: food security and nutrition, tax reform, revitalization of national development banks, optimal energy mix for sustainable development, data and statistics. Dr. Begashaw stressed the commitment of the Centre to continue to help countries to develop or align their country specific needs to the SDGs.

H.E. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia delivering his remarks during the official launch of the Sub-Regional Center

Key highlights of VP H.E. Nangolo Mbumba address:

- The launch of the center constitutes an important milestone for Southern African sub-region and we should remain committed to use all available resources form the center.
- As Africans we are very delighted that a consensus has been reached to the adoption of the SDGs.
- Quoted from previous speech of H.E. the President of Zambia *"No Namibian must be left out; shared prosperity is sustained prosperity."*
- He expressed gratitude towards H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda and Chair of The SDGC/A Board, for the adoption of SDGs in UN general Assembly and for leading the establishment of The SDGC/A. He appreciated the commitment of the board of in setting up a continental agenda and promoting local solutions to local issues.

- These achievements are evident and we African leaders are committed in providing the necessary support.
- He Appealed the Southern African Countries to support the center to breeding around home grown solutions to our issues.
- We should use the center optimally. We must face the reality and work together. Quoting an African proverb: *"if you want to go quickly, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."* Successful nations are those who overcome underdevelopment, war, income inequality, hunger.... Let the nations in the southern Africa be counted as great nations of inclusive prosperity.

H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and Chair of The SDGC/A Board delivering his Keynote Speech

Key highlights of H.E. Paul Kagame address:

- Today is a happy occasion as it is the first regional center opened in Africa. The reason is simple: it is because of the leadership and commitment of H.E. Edgar Lungu, President of Zambia.
- He expressed his gratitude to H.E. Edgar Lungu, President of Zambia and the people of Zambia for speed of followed through in its pledges.
- He appreciated the outstanding quality of the facility that has been provided. This center has all the conditions needed to succeed in its mission.
- The importance of the mission is clear. The Sustainable Development Goals, just like the African Union's Agenda 2063, are detailed blueprints for delivering our people the future they deserve. That requires good policy-making, as well as reliable national data systems to track progress toward the targets.

- The role of The SDG Centre for Africa is to support governments in this endeavor, especially by providing technical advice on upgrading statistical capacity. The Centre can also provide relevant policy research and analysis tailored to the circumstances of each country. It is up to the government, the civil society and the private sector to make use of these resources.
- The ambitious goals represent real, tangible progress in the well-being of our people. Namely, improvements to health, economic opportunity, gender parity, and environmental protection, to name just a few. Things that anyone can see and feel in their own lives, is what is represented in the SDGs, and therefore The Centre and the sub-regional centres will be championing that.
- Next month there will be will participate at UN general assembly meeting and the High Level Political Form (HLPF) will assess the progress made on achievement of SDGs. UN and Africa nation will be working closely.
- Time is of essence, 2030 is a decade away & countries are not on track in meeting the targets.
- The opening of The SDGC/A is therefore timely and other regions will follow. Liberia has already committed to host The SDGC/A sub-center for West Africa. I hope other regions of our continent will follow suit.

H.E. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia and SDGC/A Board Member delivering his acceptance speech

Key highlights of H.E. Edgar Chagwa Lungu address:

- The center launched today renews our hope that we can win the war against poverty, hunger, disease, literacy and negative effects of climate change and related challenges
- The unity of countries and people will be critical to the work and the success of the center. Together we will overcome any obstacle that may come our way.
- Emphasized that our presence is a clear testimony of African determination and unwavering commitment of the SADC region of meeting SDG targets.
- If Africa does not devise more innovative way, it is unlikely that the continent will not be in a position to achieve SDGs. Time has come for Africa to devise home grown solutions to its own challenges.

- We thank H.E. President Paul Kagame for his efforts towards this initiative as the establishment of the sustainable development goals center for Africa in Kigali was a lunch pad for such initiatives. The center provides an avenue for accelerating the attainment of the SDGs. The center in Lusaka brings the initiative closer to home for Southern Africa region.
- The SDGC/A sub center for Southern Africa will help as a vehicle to facilitating engagement between governments and other stakeholders the accelerate the achievement of SDGs. We believe the center will propel our ability to attain the SDGs and also enhance our capacities to development and implementation of homegrown interventions and solutions which we are convinced reside within Africa.
- The successful attainment of the SDGs will reinforce the realization of our aspiration of Africa Union Agenda 2063 which are indeed attainable.
- The achievement of SDGs calls for promotion of development oriented policies and programs that support productive activities, creation of decent jobs and entrepreneurship, especially for women and youth and hence the center should aim at assisting countries in developing regional policies and strategies that promote creation of employment opportunities for all.
- The region should be able to from the center's activities in the area of agriculture, health and education among others. In this regard, we expect our small scale farmers to be given the necessary attention to be more productive actors of the economy, promote healthy lives for our citizens to engage in productive activities and enhancement of productivity and human capital to promote sustainable development, work closely with National Development Banks and other financial institutions in resource mobilization & disbursement to achieve SDGs and addressing the data gap for achievement of SDGs.
- The strategic position of Zambia in Southern Africa region will provide easy access by member states and we encourage out cooperating partners, philanthropists and related key stakeholders to support the center as benefits will undoubtedly reach all our people in the region.
- This center will bring all of us together, and we will make this center a critical asset in the attainment of SDGS and agenda 2063.

Official Launch of The SDGC/A Sub-Regional Center for Southern Africa

H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and Chair of the Founding Board of The SDGC/A handed a symbolic key to H.E. Edgar Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia as the host of the Sub-Regional Center.

H.E. Lungu handed the key to Dr. Belay Begashaw, Director General of SDGC/A as a symbol of the official opening of the Sub-Regional Center Office.

On the day prior to the Launch, the Government of Zambia through the Ministry of National Development and Planning, hosted a cocktail reception at the Taj Pamodzi Hotel, for all the invitees from Zambia and the rest of the Southern Africa Region countries.

4.5. PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE WAY FORWARD: PROGRAMMES, FLAGSHIP PROJECTS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS THAT CAN BE DEVELOPED AND CHALLENGES

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THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CENTRE FOR AFRICA

Panel Moderator: Mr. Chibamba Kanyama

Panelists:

1. Dr. Belay E. Begashaw, Director General, The SDGC/A
2. Mr. Chola J. Chabala, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of National Development Planning, Zambia
3. Mrs. Colleen Zamba, Senior Economist, UNDP Zambia
4. Mr. Kryticous P. Nshindano, Executive Director, Civil Society for Poverty Reduction, Zambia

Different programs and flagship projects implemented by The SDGC/A

Dr. Belay Begashaw, Director General, The SDGC/A:

- The SDGs are not new because everything has been there (health, agriculture, education…) what is new is the way benefits from the synergy are maximized, the way tradeoffs are minimized and the way things are done differently with a sense of emergency.
- There is a need to find balance between economic growth, environmental sustainability and concerns about the population because if resources are put on only one of those pillars that would affect the others, yet that is not what SDGs are about.
- The most important thing in SDGs domestication is to contextualize every single target and indicators into the local socio-economic realities; otherwise, the planning process is not right.
- There is a need to interpret the SDGs into a business plan; we need to have information on the cost and return on investment to be able to attract investors and the private sector.
- All the 193 countries that signed the SDGs accord have different starting points. As low and middle income countries we need do a lot of advocacy work, to make sure that every single promise that we put on the table, during dialogues, crafting agendas and facilitating the discussions for SDGs, are met!
- The SDGC/A is establishing a real-time data system that will help us capture all efforts; to bring the score cards from every single reporting system and put them against the targets and know whether we are on or off-track.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Francis Jere:

"What type and level of engagement should be between the think tanks and the civil society to avoid silos and leverage the power of collaboration?'

A: Dr. Belay Begashaw:

SDGs are citizens' projects. Governments are custodians but not exclusive implementers of SDGs. SDGs are implemented by all people. NGOs and religious organizations are playing a role in the areas of education, health and others. We have built a system that will help capture the reports by every single institution that are finally compiled to produce the annual monitoring report. Think tanks, Governments and the civil society are expected to work together and contribute to the SDGs implementation.

The SDGC/A Board is composed of Heads of States, Business people, Human Rights Activities, Academicians. We want to replicate that structure up to the grassroots level.

Panelists' Interventions on the topic

Mr. Chola J. Chabala, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of National Development Planning, ZAMBIA

- Growth is very important but to attain sustainable development, the 3 pillars must be inclusive and tradeoffs well managed.
- We have to be localizing issues; we have to be context specific. If we want to discuss about sustainability we need to take into consideration countries specific data for example in Zambia wealth accounting and valuation of eco systems exercise; results were chocking: data showed that agriculture is doing more damage to the environment that any other exercise that we have been investing in.
- Aspect of Data – data is very important we need to highlight what is done by the private sector to capture the real outputs in the country.

Mrs. Colleen Zamba, Senior Economist, UNDP Zambia

- SDG is a guiding aspect in the interventions by the UNDP especially as a lead organization. Key to note is need to localize efforts
- For Zambia, the entry point was to support the SDG mainstreaming in the 7th NDP. Methodology was critical and had key elements such as horizontal and vertical to identify gaps and they were incorporated in volume II
- Strong leadership is criteria in localizing as the case was in Zambia and also ownership is important, training for capacity building and inclusiveness are key in localizing SDGs,
- Zambia was identified as the lead example in SDG mainstreaming and they have been invited to share their experiences.

Mr. Kryticous P. Nshindano, Executive Director, Civil Society for Poverty Reduction, Zambia

- Focus on human development indicators is critical, the civil society feels inclusiveness is important
- Private sector growth can be attained through
- Important to contextualize SDGs through mainstreaming and integration is critical as the plan operate
- Domestication is not enough, there is need to ensure inclusive development
- Data will enhance timely implementation through mechanisms such as national budget

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Participants following the discussions attentively

Q: Lubinda Luchembe

It is good that a lot has been done but need to get sense of ownership by the people so that they contribute to attain the goals

Answer:

Decentralized and participatory mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation are key in enhancing participation. Structures of accountability, monitoring and reporting are also critical and work is in progress

Q: Harriet Chibuta

If domestication is not enough, what else do you recommend?

Answer : Mr. Kryticous P. Nshindano:

Domestication is not an end in itself; it should go beyond documentation and critically get integrated in the implementation processes and policies such as national budgets.

Observation: how we handle issues of governance, we shy away from asking what type of governance is needed. Even on 7NDP Governance is not being addressed fully.

Answer:

7NDP recognizes Governance and has integrated it in the 7NDP for the first time

Comment by Zacci

Private sector can effectively participate through the Public Private Partnership arrangement.

Comments on National Development Partnerships and how they can enhance Funding

Mr. Chola J. Chabala, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of National Development Planning, ZAMBIA

- Partnerships with private sector, civil society and cooperating partners are critical in attaining ideal financing for development
- Project proposals can be developed in areas of potential funding through partnerships
- Partnerships allow for innovation and technology

Mrs. Colleen Zamba, Senior Economist, UNDP Zambia

- Partnerships would greatly assist in avoiding duplication of efforts

4.6. CLOSING REMARKS

Hon. Ibrahim Salim Bagus, (MP) Minister of Industry Trade and Toursim – Republic of Malawi

- As Governments we must accelerate efforts to ensure that we get back on track with respect to attaining agenda 2030. This call is not only for governments, but for academia, research institutions, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders to play their roles to ensure that we achieve the targets that we set for the post 2015 agenda.

- Panel discussions have provided an insight into some of the issues that we can address to ensure that we get back on track. I wish to request that The SDGC/A Sub-Regional Center for Southern Africa immediately begins a process of holding peer reviews with regards to the progress we are making as SADC countries. This will assist our countries to share best practices and expertise using the sub-regional Centre as a hub.

4.7. THE SDGC/A SUB-REGIONAL CENTER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA OFFICE ADDRESS

The Sub-Regional Center Office is located at

F/31/F377A, Bishops Road, Kabulonga,

P.O.Box. 31689,

Lusaka, Zambia

ANNEX: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. Conference Note - LAUNCH OF The SDGC/A SUB-REGIONAL CENTER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

   https://go.sdgcafrica.org/8Jxa

2. Conference Brochure - LAUNCH OF The SDGC/A SUB-REGIONAL CENTER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

   https://go.sdgcafrica.org/kwd8

3. Presentation - THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION PERFORMANCE

   https://go.sdgcafrica.org/Gm3v

4. Official Speeches

   https://sdgcafrica.org/ournews/

5. Official Launch Video - THE SUB-REGIONAL CENTER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxsfHJjomvU

6. Official Launch Photo Album

   https://www.flickr.com/photos/182025114@N02/albums/72157710167031326

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